

1509/534.

H I N T S

FOR ERECTING

County Granaries

IN THIS

K I N G D O M.



H I N T S
FOR ERECTING
C O U N T Y
G R A N A R I E S
I N
T H I S K I N G D O M,

As the sure **M E A N S** to lower
the exorbitant **P R I C E** of **C O R N**
at the latter End of the Year ;
To preserve a **S U F F I C I E N C Y** for
homeward Consumption, to the great
R E L I E F of the **P O O R**,
And the
Preservation of all our Manufactures.

ADDRESSED TO
The Right Honourable **JOHN PONSONBY**,
Speaker to the Hon. House of Commons.

By **W A L T E R W E L D O N**, Esq;

D U B L I N :
Printed and Sold by **WILLIAM SLEATER**,
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MDCCCLVII.

(*Price, a British Six-pence.*)



H I
FOR
COUNTY
GRANARIES
IN
THIS KINGDOM

As the true Means to lower
the exorbitant Price of Corn
at the latter End of the Year;
To preserve a Sufficiency for
homeward Consumption, to the great
RELIEF of the POOR,

And the

Preservation of all our Manufactures.

Addressed to

The Right Honourable John Parnsey,
Speaker to the Hon. House of Commons.

By WALTER WELDON, Esq.

DUBLIN.

Printed and Sold by WILLIAM STUART,
Bookbinder, at Poole's Head on Cork-street.
MDCCCLVII.

(Price, a Shilling Six-pence.)



HINTS

FOR ERECTING

County Granaries

IN THIS

KINGDOM.

MR. *Locke* asserts it as an undoubted Truth, " That the Land-holder is more concerned in Trade, and ought to take greater Care that it be well managed than even the Merchant himself; for he will certainly find that when a Decay has carried away one Part of our Money out of the

B

King-

“ Kingdom, and the other is kept
 “ in the Merchants or Tradesmens
 “ Hands, no Laws he can make, or
 “ or any little Arts of shifting Pro-
 “ perty amongst ourselves will bring
 “ it back to him again ; but his
 “ Rents will fall, and his Income
 “ every Day lessen, ’till general In-
 “ dustry and Frugality, join’d to a
 “ well ordered Trade, shall restore
 “ to the Kingdom the Riches and
 “ Wealth it formerly had.”

Sir *Mathew Decker* asserts, that
 “ the Merchant, the Manufacturer,
 “ and the Sailor, who at first View
 “ appear to have the greatest Interest
 “ in Trade, will upon Examination
 “ be found not to be so deeply con-
 “ cerned in its well or ill being, as
 “ the Land-holder, whose Interest
 “ seems more remote ; and who
 “ (with Sorrow it must be said) too
 “ often by his Indifference gives oc-
 “ casion

“ cation to suspect that he thinks he
 “ he hath no Concern in it at all :
 “ And continues: That the Land-hol-
 “ der hath an immovable Property,
 “ valuable only to some few of his
 “ Neighbours or Countrymen ; the
 “ Produce of which, if Trade car-
 “ ries not off, nor brings in People
 “ to consume, but on the contrary,
 “ by its Decay drives the Consumers
 “ away, his Tenants must decay,
 “ break, fly, and his Lands be un-
 “ tenanted ; he may indeed sell at
 “ one Price or another, but when
 “ the Bulk of his Neighbours are in
 “ as bad a situation as himself, and
 “ all Rents declining, the Value of
 “ untenanted Farms and empty Hou-
 “ ses must be very low.”

How severely applicable to the Si-
 tuation that I fear this Kingdom is
 soon likely to be in, the Opinions of
 these two great Judges of Trade are,
 I shall not take upon me to say ; but

surely when we have lately seen an Attention to the Situation of *England*, with respect to the Want of Corn, graciously recommended by his Majesty to his Parliament there, and a Repetition of the same paternal Affection the other Day so warmly recommended to us by our humane Governor here, when we see also an Embargo wisely continued, to prevent the Exportation of our Corn to Foreigners ; surely in this Situation every Individual should look at home, and exert his utmost in scheming all the Relief within the Circle of his Power, for his Fellow-Creatures, assured of Encouragement and Protection, so far as he shall be right, under our present Legislature : For under their Sanction, and the Restraint of their Laws, both with respect to the erecting County Granaries, and for a certain Period of Time in every Year, preventing the Exportation of Corn, do I mean entirely to form my Plan ;

Plan; and that the Undertakers of those Granaries shall be bound down by them, what Profit shall be demanded on the selling out their Corn for homeward Consumption by the Barrel: Under proper Restraints in this respect, no Injury can arise to the Publick, but immense Advantages; without proper Restrictions, as to the Profit on selling out, Granaries containing so much Corn as I scheme they should do, might become private Monopolies, and publick Nuisances; as few that owned them would have a Virtue sufficient to resist the lucrative Temptations that would attend such an Undertaking.

On this Plan I will suppose the County Granaries erected in the most fertile Parts of this Kingdom, built and undertaken by private Persons; will not those certain Places of Sale for all the Corn of those Counties and their adjacent ones, greatly encourage

courage their Encrease of Tillage by the certainty of Market to the Farmer for large Quantities, the freeing him from long Carriage in the Winter Season of the Year, and thereby saving both his Time and Horses for his immediate Tillage and Sowing : Will not this and the limited Restraint on the Export be a certain Method to keep our Corn (in our present poor State of Tillage) from being carried to the Sea-port Markets, picked up there when at low Price, and sold back to us when at an high one, an Advantage ('till lately restrained by the Government's Prohibitions) constantly taken of the Necessities of our indigent Farmers, who are obliged to sell early, and with double Severity afterwards thrown on our starving Inhabitants ? Is not the Difference in Point of Cash, of the Sums the Corn is bought up for here at the Beginning of the Year, when at the low Price, and when
fold

fold back again to us at the high one, so much absolute Loss (for the Want of Granaries) to this Kingdom?

And can the poorer Sort of Farmers be expected to resist the Temptation of selling their Corn, though at a low Price in the Beginning of the Year, to Export Factors, when perhaps at that very Time they are most pressed for their Rent?

Was not this so practised in the Years 1754 and 1755 by the Commission Trade at *Waterford* and other Sea Ports: That in the Spring following each of these Years, Oats sold in the Country, from nine to eleven Shillings *per* Barrel, though bought up by Commission, and that shortly after the Harvest, from four to five Shillings? Had none of this Corn been fold back again to us even at the high Price, and had more been taken away, when at the low one, what would have

have become of our poor Inhabitants ?
Or how would the Farmer have been
supplied for his Spring Sowing ?

Wisely has this been foreseen by
our Government, when they laid on
the Embargo ; for had the Export
Trade taken its Run this last Year,
we should have seen little of our Corn
return to us, be the Price what it
would ; so much was it wanted in
other Countries.

But by my Plan, when our Tillage
is so advanced as to admit an Ex-
port Trade at all Times of the Year,
then will the Restraint for the Months
I shall hereafter mention, be of no
further Use ; and will not all these
Granaries be so many Store-Houses ?
And may we not expect a higher
Price for our superfluous Corn, by
having those Repositories to secure it,
till it shall rise at foreign Markets ?

And

And do we not by these ready and sure Places of Market for the needy Farmer, prevent our Corn from being pick'd up immediately after Harvest at the low Price by the foreign Commissions?

Let us begin therefore at the Fountain Head; first encourage Tillage, so as to supply the Demands of our own Kingdom: Then let the Means to secure that Sufficiency take up your second Thought.

Publick Granaries will surely, I think, answer both these Ends: By them we imitate the prudent Ant, who hoards up in the plenty Day, against the Arrival of a scarce one; that over, let our superfluous Corn go where it may.

But if our Export Trade is to take its free Run at all Times of the Year,

before our Tillage increases; What is to become of our Manufactures? What a Price has Corn and Potatoes been at these two Years past? Can the Labourer afford to work at Six-pence *per* Day, when to fill his own Belly, exclusive of his naked and starving Family, the Price of his Sustenance is to exceed his Hire. Does not the Parity of Argument on the Labourer, extend itself to every Branch of our Manufactures: Where must all this end? On all Land-holders and Improvers in the Labouring-man's Part of the Argument, and on Trade and all Kind of Manufactures on the Artificer's Part of the Argument. Too serious this Truth; for must not each Hand in this Kingdom raise the Price of his Day's Work, the Law of Necessity compelling him so to do?

What is then to become of the Improver, what of the Carriers on of all our Manufactures? If the one attempts

tempts to send his Wares to foreign Markets, he is from all Quarters underfold; the Price of Artificers Work being so high at Home; which must make his Commodity in Proportion dearer than his Competitors.

If the Land-holder wishes to beautify or improve his native Soil, Labour is so high he cannot undertake it: What then the melancholly Consequence of all this? Why, the Artificer must seek for Protection and Encouragement in an happier Clime, for the Want of Employment in his own! The Labourer, not being *worthy of his Hire*, must do the same.

To prevent all this, I would propose the following Plan to be put into Execution, and will suppose twelve Publick Granaries erected in the twelve most fertile and convenient Counties of this Kingdom, and each to be able to contain at least five

thousand Barrels of Corn with Safety. That the Undertaker of each Granary shall be bound down to receive no more Profit, on the selling out his Corn, to be kept only while homeward Occasions require it, than two Shillings *per* Barrel for each Barrel of Wheat, and all other Corn proportionably, as settled by the Act of last Session, with respect to the *Premiums* on the Export of Corn, when at a low Price; and that he shall be obliged to produce his Books at the next Quarter-Sessions after his Corn is laid in; and there to obtain a Certificate from the Bench of Justices of the medium Price he has bought in his Corn at, to prevent any Exceeding of the two Shillings *per* Barrel Profit on the selling out: This his private Profit, and under penal Restrictions not to exceed it; and not to refuse the Sale at that Profit to any Person demanding any Quantity, not exceeding five Barrels; such Person being willing to make

make Affidavit that the Corn so demanded is entirely for his own or Family's Use, except he be a Baker; and not for selling out again to the Export Trade: But that he shall not sell to any Export Factor till after the first of *July* following, the Time of his buying in his Corn; as by that Time the new Harvest of Potatoes and Bare is supposed to be come in; and that the Sale and Delivery of the old Corn to the Export Factor shall end by the first of *October*.

By which Means all Foreigners will know when to be supplied without Disappointment; and also will prevent the Harvest of the new Year from being exported, till homeward Occasions are supplied.

Now, for his further Encouragement, and in Aid of the two Shillings *per* Barrel, private Profit on the selling out of his Corn; I will suppose a
Premium

Premium of one hundred Pounds for each thousand Barrels of Corn so sold out for homeward Consumption, and before the first of *July*; if afterwards, and within the three Months, being the Time I mean to have limited for the Export Trade; that is, from the first of *July*, to the first of *October* following: He may then get the highest Price he can from the foreign Trade, to entitle him to the hundred Pounds *Premium* on the thousand Barrels of Corn, sold from his Granaries for homeward Consumption; he shall be obliged to make Affidavit before the Grand-Jury of the County where his Granary is erected, as to the Quantities of Corn so sold.

And now in order to raise a Fund for this publick *Premium*, I must here call on the Aid of my Brother Sportsmen of this Kingdom: And hope more effectually to protect their Game, under the publick Utility of this

this Tax, than by any penal Laws whatever, that we either now have or wish to have in Force; though I do not mean the repealing those we at present have.

On this Plan, I will suppose each Person keeping a Pack of Hounds, or a Greyhound, to pay five Pounds by the Year; and each Hunt or Club established by Subscription to pay ten Pounds yearly: And each Person keeping an *English* Spaniel, Pointer, or other Dog likely to kill Game, to pay one Pound ten Shillings by the Year.

The Tax arising from these to be appropriated to the Discharge of this *Premium* on the thousand Barrels so sold out, I may justly say for the Relief of the Poor; as the greatest Rise on the Consumer within the nine Months, can only be two Shillings

lings *per* Barrel on Wheat, and so in Proportion in other Corn.

And *quare*, in Case this Tax should not be judged a Fund sufficient to answer these *Premiums*, if the Owner of each Cur-Dog, or other Dog whatever, except those who pay the larger Tax, was to pay one Shilling *per* Year: And all those Taxes to be collected with the Hearth-money Tax; the Collector of the Tax to receive so much in the Pound for his Trouble in gathering them; and all to be applied in Aid of the *Premium* on Corn so sold out for our homeward Consumption.

But here I must stop and consider the Harmony that will subsist between the Gentleman and the Farmer, in Preference to their present Situation.

And

And while under the penal Laws, if rigorously kept up to, with respect to the Game, every Gentleman that chuses to pay this voluntary Sporting-Tax, will have the Satisfaction to think that, for Indulgence in his Pleasures, he contributes to fulfil some of the noblest Ends of his Creation, the keeping in Health and Vigour the Trade and Manufactures of his Country, the relieving the Distressed, clothing the Naked, and feeding the Hungry.

The Patriot Farmer, on his Part, will gladly protect all the Game, within his Precincts, to contribute to the Pleasure of so useful a Sportsman; whose Fortune, enabling him to pay the Tax, and keep Hounds, should also, by giving him a suitable Education, teach him Humanity to protect, rather than injure the Farmer, in going through his Grounds.

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But

But as a further Encouragement to the Farmer and to Tillage, I will suppose the Owner of each Granary obliged to give a yearly *Premium* of fifty Pounds, supposing him to sell from his Granary five thousand Barrels of Corn; and so in Proportion as he shall fall short of this Quantity.

I say, this fifty Pounds to be applied every Year in *Premiums*, as the Farmers in each County where the Granaries are kept, shall best deserve, by Improvement and Increase in their Tillage: The Application of this Money to be rested on the Judgment of the Farmers Society of that County. And where they are so unhappy to want so publick-spirited and useful a Set of Gentlemen, that then the Application of the Granary-Money shall remain in the Grand-Jury of the County, either of whose Receipts shall be a sufficient Discharge to the Granary-Man

Man for having paid this *Premium* to the most meretorious Farmers, to answer the Ends I have mentioned.

In Aid to this *Premium*, and as a further Encouragement to Tillage, I will suppose the Farmers Societies and their noble Spirit in Subscriptions to encrease.

I will also suppose and wish to see the Beneficed Clergy of this Kingdom roused by our late Distresses for Corn, with active Prelates at their Heads, with a Fervour highly becoming them in humane and Charitable Points, all joining in Subscriptions and in a Society in each Country, for the Encouragement of Tillage.

And if I knew any other Profession whose private Interest and publick Characters call'd more strongly on them, to Encourage an Undertaking of this Sort (so useful to Man and
of

of course pleasing to God) than the Prelates and Beneficed Clergy of this Kingdom, I would also call for their Assistance on this Occasion; I mean the Occasion of giving *Premiums* for the Encouragement of Tillage. And thereby relieving the Poor, and preserving us from such Distress, as we have lately felt, cheapening Provisions and Labour, at all Times the high Advantage of Trade; keeping our Manufactures at home, and of Course enlarging our Trade abroad, the only Source of bringing Money into our Kingdom; and thereby keeping up or raising the Value of our Lands.

Now, in order to ascertain the Amount of the publick *Premiums* to be given by the Year for the Sale of the thousand Barrels of Corn for homeward Consumption, I will suppose but two Granaries erected in the
most

most convenient Parts of *Ulster* (as the *North* is in a good Measure under the Linen Trade) four in *Leinster*, three in *Munster*, and three in *Connaught*: These make twelve in all, and each to be able to contain five thousand Barrels of Corn.

By which Means, sixty thousand Barrels of Corn will at all times be secured, for the Use of the Kingdom, at a low Price; exclusive of what the Farmers, who do not chuse to sell to the Granary-Men, may have in their Haggards; for they are not to be under any Restraint as to Price or Selling, except to the Export Trade, which I would have free only for so many Months 'till our Tillage encreases, so as to exceed our homeward Demands:

Then the *Premium* of one hundred Pounds upon the thousand Barrels of Corn, as I schemed, will amount to
the

the yearly sum of six thousand Pounds; a Trifle this, when considered to arise from a voluntary Tax (as I have proved it to be) on the Wealthy, to answer so great Ends, in the preservation of our Manufactures, and the Aid of the Poor.

But here it may be objected, that this Scheme may tend to an unfair lowering of the Price of Corn, with respect to the Farmers of this Kingdom, and of our Lands in Consequence: But let it be remembered, that I suppose the Granary-Man to lay in his Corn at the Market-Price then going, be it what it may, as the Crop of that Season shall turn out.

I freely own, it will effect in Consequence (as Corn may at all Times be had from the Granary-Man at a moderate Price) a few avaritious Farmers, at the latter End of the Year,

Year, whose hard Hearts set their Thirst after Gain, I had almost said, beyond the Rules of Justice; but sure I am, I may say, above the Rules of Humanity; I mean such as keep up their Corn, till hard Necessity compels the Poor to satisfy their exorbitant Demands, with what Price they please to affix on it.

A Restraint on those, I am sure our publick Interest calls for, though, by my Scheme, I do not put them under any as to their Price, except, as to the Export in Point of Time; and surely if they were to be on no worse Foot than the Granary-Keeper in Point of Profit, after keeping up their Corn, that Restraint cannot be called a severe one.

The Granary-Man's greatest Profit on the Corn sold out both by the *Praemium* and the private Profit, amounts

amounts to four Shillings *per* Barrel in Wheat, and so in Proportion in other Corn.

Now suppose the Farmer and he to sell on a Par for the homeward Consumption, at the latter end of the Year, who will say but each has a sufficient Profit, for keeping their Corn so short a Time as perhaps six or eight Months, whereas in our present Situation, the Farmer having no Tye on him, frequently sells his Corn at four or five Times this Rise on the Consumer, from what its real Value was shortly after the Harvest, when cruelly hoarded up to the latter Part of the Year; and surely the Farmer on this supposition of the four Shillings Profit, will be the greatest Gainer, being free from any Restraint as to his selling Price at any Time: Who has not sunk any considerable Sum in erecting a Publick Granary, or who is not at any
 Expence

Expence in the keeping such an Undertaking on Foot.

Now with Respect to the Export Advantage from the first of *July* to the first of *October*, both Granary-Man and Farmer are on a Foot, as they may each get what Price they can for their Corn on that Trade, and the higher the better : But let the Farmer e'er I have done my Appeal to him, well consider this, that whilst he thinks himself happy in his high Price for home Consumption, and keeps up his Corn on that Plan ; he so far affixes a Tax on our Trade, and all our Manufactures, which must end in their Ruin.

Whence then shall we get Money into our Kingdom, who have no Mines of our own, or how in Time will he be able to pay his Landlord his Rent ? That this is a Time critical to consider of these Matters, our late

Necessities have fully proved to us, but surely when from the Consequences of last Sessions so happy Undertakings are on Foot, in respect to our Inland Navigation; and which I hope will turn out to answer so great Ends as they may be made to do after the serious Attention of this Sessions, in the Conveyance of our Corn through this Kingdom, whose fertile Lap, and advantageous Situation with respect to Harbours and navigable Rivers, seems to point it out as a Granary to Mankind: I say, these natural Advantages considered, a Scheme to promote an Encrease to our Tillage, and at the same Time to preserve a Sufficiency of Corn at a low Rate, to maintain and keep at home our Inhabitants, will, I am convinced, as to the Intention, receive a favourable Construction, and perhaps a kind Assistance and Amendment from the Publick.

Short

Short I am sure this Sketch will fall of many other Merits, but such as may be allowed to good Intentions, and thus much I have ventured to throw out to the Publick, in order to receive such Information as may best conduce to the bringing to Effect Ends, that properly digested, will no doubt greatly contribute to the well-being of this Country.

I am well aware that it may be objected as a Difficulty to find Persons able or willing to undertake the erecting and carrying into Execution those Granaries.

Suppose therefore that the Taxes I have mentioned, were to be let to run into a liquidating Fund, properly appointed and secured, 'till it would so amount as to afford *Premiums* sufficient to reimburse or encourage Persons willing to erect Gra-

naries able to contain the Quantity
 of Corn as heretofore mentioned ;
 and that afterwards if there should be
 an Exceeding from those Taxes as to
 the *Premiums* on the thousand Barrels
 sold out for homeward Consumption,
 it should then be applied in *Premiums*
 for the Encouragement of Tillage,
 in such Counties, and their adjacent
 ones, as the Granaries should be built
 in ; this as one Method : But as twelve
 thousand Pounds may perhaps be
 looked on as sufficient to erect
 the twelve County Granaries, as I
 have mentioned, who that wishes
 well to his Country would not join
 in the Application of so much from
 our Publick Treasure, or may we
 not even hope (from the humane and
 charitable Dispositions so universally
 shewn all over this Kingdom in our
 late Distresses) to see this Objection,
 if not removed, lightened by volun-
 tary Subscriptions, as the getting into
 Execution some Plan of this Sort,
 seems

seems to point out the most probable Means to prevent any future Calamities.

In order to give farther Lights to those Hints, I have hereunto annexed the following Calculation, and will suppose at a medium each County in this Kingdom to pay for ten Gentlemen, who keep Hounds, and ten more who keep Greyhounds, which will yearly produce,

	£.
32 Counties at 100 l each,	3200
32 Counties, fifty in each, paying the Tax of 1 l. 10 s. on	
Pointers and Setters——	2400
	————
	5600

I will suppose that the twelve Granaries will take two Years before they can be compleatly erected and dried, so as to receive Corn and preserve

serve it, during which Time the yearly Tax of 5600 *l.* will amount to the Sum of 11200 *l.* this will then fall short but 800 *l.* of the Capital Sum of 12000 *l.* being a supposed Sum necessary for erecting the twelve Granaries at 1000 *l.* each, and after the Granaries are thus paid for, this Sum of 5600 *l.* may go on yearly to support the *Premiums* on the thousand Barrels of Corn sold from the Granary as before recited, wanting only the Sum of 400 *l.* yearly. But let it be considered, that I have not here supposed any Calculation for those of my Countrymen who would pay the Tax of one Shilling yearly for their House-Dogs and Curs, rather than part with them; by which I am convinced a considerable Sum would arise; and should it be objected that the Quantity of Corn, as also the Granaries, by my Computation would be too small, double the Plan, and every Calculation will

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in its Proportion hold good ; and if enlarging them should be thought advisable, why should not so material a Benefit to this Kingdom, be supported as to the Encrease on yearly *Præmiums* from the general Funds, in the same manner as the *Præmiums* for the Land-carriage of Corn is intended to be raised.

P O S T.

in its Proposals, both good; and if
 enlarging them should be thought ad-
 visable, why should not so material a
 Benefit to this Kingdom, be report-
 ed as to the Increase on yearly five-
 annum from the General Funds, in the
 same manner
 the Fund-charge is intend-
 to be raised.



P O S T



POSTSCRIPT.

I HAVE chosen in this Sketch to confine my Arguments entirely to the erecting County Granaries, as I think they may easily come within the Powers of private Gentlemen ; but surely every Argument I have made use of in their Behalf will stand of tripled
E Force

Force in Favour of the erecting one large Magazine in this Capital, by the Application of Part of our Publick Treasure; where Corn might be sold out, at, or near Prime Cost, to the immense Relief of the Poor, and all Sorts of Artificers.



F I N I S.